RG104 E-1 Box 132

The Mint of the United States,
AT
PHILADELPHIA, PENN.,
Assay Department, August 2 1884

Sir:

I return herewith the Counterfeit half Eagle received from the U.S. Asst. Treas.r at Boston.

This piece is 4/10 of a grain above the Standard, and is from 3 to 5 thousandths of an inch too thick. Excepting the fact that the relief is low and greatly deficient in sharpness, the two faces may be set down as absolutely true to the genuine die. The color is good — better than that of the similar specimen sent us last March and referred to in Mr Kennard's letter. The present specimen however stains more readily under the acid; this is doubtless due to the absence of the yellow cast given to the first piece by pickling or plating. While there is a noteworthy difference in the color of the two pieces, the Specific Gravity (nearly 16) in connection with other features, seems to warrant the conclusion that the two pieces are identical in their composition and come from the same Source.

It will be recalled that the assay of the March Specimen gave 798 parts of gold, 11 of platinum beside Silver and copper. While it would have been interesting to assay this one, I am convinced that

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The Mint of the United States,

AT

PHILADELPHIA, PENN.,

Assay Department, ..., 188 .

there is still greater inducement to preserve it as a specimen intact, than there is for cutting and consuming the bulk of it in analysis.

While the measurements for weight and size are so nearly normal, the engraving true and the color good, the fraud is quite apparent in the reeding of the edge, the stain by the acid, and the want of sharpness of the two faces. Yet we cannot but regard it as one of the most dangerous, as it is scientifically one of the most interesting of Counterfeits; and in the detection of a number of these pieces the expert service in Boston is deserving of high praise.

Very Respectfully

Patterson Du Bois

Acting Assayer.

H. C. Hickok Esq

Acting Supt.

U S Mint

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 132

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At Philadelphia, Penn.,
Assay Department,
August 2, 1884

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H.C. Hickok Esq.
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U.S. Mint